

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1972.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,

being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by the Boston
Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the
Port Medical Officer which has been prepared in accordance with Form Port
20 issued by the Department of Health & Social Security and also Regulation
12 (4) of the Public Health Officers (Port Health Districts) Regulations,
1959.

During 1972 there was a further increase in the number of ships
entering the Port. The number of ships from foreign ports went up from
892 in 1971 to 1,009 in 1972, and this was reflected in an increased tonnage
from 261,730 in 1971 to 292,615 in 1972. There was also an increase though
smaller in the case of coastwise shipping from 133 in 1971 to 171 in 1972.
The total tonnage in 1972 was 331,695 compared with 290,290 in 1971. This
was the best figures for the past 6 years, but still not quite approaching
the 372,473 tonnage of 1965, a peak year.

A total of 114 ships were inspected by the Port Health Inspectors
whilst I boarded 3 on arrival because of outbreaks of sickness which had
occurred during the voyage. No cases of Infectious Disease were notified
on any ship entering the Port nor were any notified whilst in dock.

41 Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued during 1972,
a slight decrease compared with 1971. The Cargo traffic was very similar
to previous years.

I should like to thank the H.M. Customs and Waterguard for their
help and assistance during the year, also the Port Health Inspectors and
General Manager and Staff at the Dock and all others associated with the Port
for their co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

G. HIRD.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
6, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

February, 1973.

SECTION 1 - Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of officer.	Nature of appointment.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
HIRD, G.	Port Medical Officer of Health.	1- 5-58.	M.B.,Ch.B., D.P.H.	Assistant C.M.O.- Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health- Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health-Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G.E.	Chief Port Health Inspector.	15-10-45.	Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.	Chief Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
MILSOM, D.H.	Deputy Chief Port Health Inspector.	1-10-59.	Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
BOWRAN, C.D.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	17- 7-67.	Dip. P.H.I.E.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health.) Public Health Department,
) 6, Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lincs.
) BOSTON 4601 (six lines)

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Port Health Inspectors.	
Foreign Ports.	1,009.	292,615.	3.	108.	Nil.
Coastwise.	171.	39,080.	Nil.	6.	Nil.
Total.	1,180.	331,695.	3.	114.	Nil.

SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ...	Number of passengers INWARDS : 57. Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 24.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	Principal IMPORTS : Aluminium, Animal Feeding Stuffs, Coal, Deals, Battens and Boards, Fertilizers, Fruit and Vegetables, Glucose, Grain, Paper, Perlite, Potatoes, Sand, Starch, Steel, Telegraph Poles and General. Principal EXPORTS : Cattle, Fertilizers, Grain, Potatoes, Steel, Steel Scrap and General.
FOREIGN PORTS from which ships arrive ...	BELGIUM : Antwerp, Ghent. CYPRUS : Famagusta. DENMARK : Esbjerg, Hirtshals, Orehoved, Skagen, Thyboren. EGYPT : Alexandria. FINLAND : Hamina, Haukipudas, Jacobstad, Kotka, Mantyluoto, Nystad, Walkom, Yxpila. FRANCE : Abbeville, Bordeaux, Caen, Le Treport, Rouen, St. Malo, Tonnay Charente. GERMANY : Brake, Bremen, Duisburg, Hamburg, Rostock, Rendsburg, Wismar. GREECE : Milos. HOLLAND : Amsterdam, Delfzijl, Harlingen, Koog Aan De Zaan, Rotterdam, Terneuzen, Ymuiden, Zaandam. ITALY : Salerno. NORWAY : Aaheim, Drammen, Husnes, Kristiansand, Mosjoen, Moss, Oslo, Sarpsborg. POLAND : Gdansk, Gdynia, Stettin. PORTUGAL : Leixoes, Lisbon. RUMANIA : Constantza, Galatz. RUSSIA : Archangel, Leningrad, Murmansk, Onega. SARDINIA : Oristano. SPAIN : Bilbao, Cartagena. SWEDEN : Burea, Gothenburgh, Gruvon, Hallstavik, Karlstad, Kristinehamn, Norrkoping, Skoghall, Uddevalla, Vargon.

SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

SECTION V - Water supply.

1. Source of supply for

- (a) The District.
 (b) Shipping.

- NO CHANGE -

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2. Reports of tests for contamination for

(a) The District. - NO CHANGE -

(b) Shipping.

	No. of ships involved.	No. of samples taken.	No. satisfactory.	No. unsatisfactory.	Total.
Distribution aboard ships	15.	17.	10.	7.	17.
Storage aboard ships.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

The results were notified to the Master whenever possible and advice given where results were unsatisfactory. If the ship had sailed, the information was passed to the agents for onward transmission.

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

- NO CHANGE -

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1970.

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

- NO CHANGE -

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

- NO CHANGE -

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)).

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

- NO CHANGE -

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).

Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

- NO CHANGE -

5. Arrangements for :-

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox - see Section VII) :

- NO CHANGE -

- (b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts :

- NO CHANGE -

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION VII - Smallpox.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Hallwood Smallpox Hospital, Chapeltown. The administration of this Hospital is carried out from Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield - Telephone No. Sheffield 33941.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

The transport of all cases of smallpox is the responsibility of the Leicester County Council who will provide ambulances together with specially trained and vaccinated crews.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. P.J. Moroney,
Consultant in Infectious
Diseases,
Lodge Moor Hospital,
Sheffield, 10.

Dr. G. Nisbet,
The Town Hall,
Bridge Street,
Peterborough,
Northants.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor K. McCarthy, Department of Medical Microbiology, Medical School, Ashton Street, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1972.

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

There have been no cases of malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1972.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln, but during 1972 no bodies were recovered from ships using the port.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Port Health Inspector.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category.	Number.
Black rats	Nil.
Brown rats	Nil.
Species not known	Nil.
Sent for examination ..	Nil.
Infected with plague ..	Nil.

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships on arrival from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons.	21.
Ships from 301 - 1,000 tons.	18.
Ships from 1,001 - 3,000 tons.	2.
Total.	41.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Number of ships inspected : 114.

Nature of Nuisances.	Found.	Remedied.
Defects of Original Construction.	Nil.	Nil.
Defects due to Wear and Tear.	7.	2.
Dirt, Vermin, etc.	3.	3.

	<u>Served.</u>	<u>Complied with.</u>
Statutory Notices	Nil	Nil
Other Notices	10	5

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations,
1934 and 1948.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds both within and without the Area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

21 mussel samples were examined during the year, with the following results.

Less than 5 faecal coli per ml. of body tissue.	15.
5 to 15 " " " " " .	1.
More than 15 " " " " " .	5.

This shows that there are still mussel beds in the Wash that are virtually free from pollution but they are several miles out and beds that a few years ago were yielding satisfactory mussels now appear to be polluted.

No action was necessary during the year 1972, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

- NO CHANGE -

Food Inspection.

The principal food imports were as follows :-

<u>Commodity.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>
Potatoes.	23,751.
Onions.	9,326.
Tomatoes in Tins.	3,564.
Tomato Paste.	2,937.
Honey.	2,294.
Cauliflowers in Brine.	1,756.
Gherkins in Brine.	1,592.
Apricots in Tins.	1,212.
Peaches in Tins.	606.
Tomato Puree.	525.
Cherries in Water.	500.
Walnuts in Brine.	415.
Potatoes in Tins.	119.
Pears in Tins.	108.
Grapefruit in Tins.	87.
Olives.	29.
Figs.	25.
Miscellaneous.	44.

Grain. (Mainly for Animal Feeding Stuff).

Inwards	59,075.
Outwards	29,527.

During the year the following amounts of foodstuffs were found to be unfit and were destroyed :-

Potatoes.	6 tons. 2 cwt. 56lbs.
Cherries in Tins.	365 cases.
